

**1Corinthians 6** **19** What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is* in you, which ye have of God, **and ye are not your own?** **20** For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God **in your body, and in your spirit**, which are God's.

**1 Corinthians 15:56** The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

Trying to obey the letter of the law is what actually enables the enemy to strengthen himself in us. The strength of sin is the law so if we try obeying the letter of the law we actually give more strength to it (The answer is resting in what Jesus has already done for us). If we are trying to obey the law we actually give it more strength because the law cannot save us. So by coming under the law and trying to obey it we are saying we think doing this will help to save us. The law condemns us (when we come under it) and so when we try to obey it we are letting satan know that we do not believe we are already redeemed and saved by Jesus. If we believe we are saved from sin by Jesus, why then would we not rest in the Lord knowing that the law is what God tells us strengthens sin. The cross dealt with it. The motivation must not come from obeying the law to be righteous, but from a good conscience toward God. We get that good conscience by following the Holy Spirit. From having a correct attitude toward our neighbor. Thinking of the welfare of others, walking in love, in the Spirit and not under law to have to do it. Learning through the Holy Spirit to want lift others up. Doing it from the heart. Not doing good because we **feel like we have to**, but **because we want to do good** and turn away from evil. Because as we grow closer to the Lord our minds are being renewed to actually desire to do good instead of sin (the flesh nature wants to sin). Allowing our new nature from above which is spiritual to regenerate our soul and have a renewed motivation that is coming from the heart and not from the condemnation of the law. So as the Holy Spirit renews our mind into the mind of Christ we begin to desire good. It is a desire and not coming from a feeling that we have to obey the law to be good. We actually begin to **want to do good** more and more as our mind is renewed by our following and obeying the Holy Spirit. By being faithful from the heart to God. We begin to change the way we think and no longer want those things that in the past enticed us to sin. The lure of sin begins to fall away as we walk with the Lord. If our motivation is transformed so that we always desire good, then the law is only useful as a guide to discern what is good and to turn from what is evil. Being faithful to the Lord brings transformation to our minds, hearts, will, emotions, feelings, and lives. And to those around us. Each of us are created different and individual and we each have a purpose in God. Being faithful to the Lord is in **coming into (a walk)** his perfect will for our own individual life. Then he can do miracles.

**Romans 12:2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**Titus 3:5** not by works done in righteousness, which we did ourselves, but according to his mercy he saved us, **through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,**

It is not a following of the law but a change of heart. Guilt or shame or a feeling of condemnation which the devil loves to put on us, is a sign of unbelief. satan can say----  
“see they don’t believe you have saved them because they still feel guilty they don’t believe you’ve forgiven them. If they truly believed they would be free from guilt. They think your lying”. Those things give satan strength because they prove we don’t trust God. If we trusted God we would not feel guilty because of our iniquity (we are forgiven if we believe we are). If we don’t trust God then our faith is dead and we have fallen from grace and come **back under the law**. The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law. When we abide in God we simply trust that it is all dealt with and we rest in this knowledge. Knowing this we take the power of sin away so that we are able to escape any sin that has beset us as long as we use the law lawfully, which is to say as a Schoolmaster. We allow it to point sins out but we don’t allow it to have power over us. If we let the law make us think that God is condemning us still for our sin then we are not believing he has dealt with it. The law is our schoolmaster not our judge **if we abide in God**. God knows our hearts, He is looking at our hearts and not judging our sin. He is more interested in renewing our mind and changing the desires of our hearts. As the Holy Spirit does this the sin drops off like a filthy rag. We cast it off and out with ease because we actually don’t want it anymore. We don’t want it because as we **faithfully turn from evil and desire good as the Lord leads** our way of thinking becomes as the way Jesus thinks. Our nature is changing and by faith has already changed.

**John 12:47** And if any man hear my words, and believe not, I judge him not: for I came not to judge the world, but to save the world.

**Hebrews 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us **lay aside every weight**, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us **run with patience** the race that is set before us,

**Psalm 19:7** The law of the LORD *is* perfect, **converting the soul**: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple.

**1Samuel 16:7** But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for *the LORD seeth* not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, **but the LORD looketh on the heart**.

**Galatians 3:13** Christ **redeemed us from the curse of the law**, having become a curse for us; for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:

When we understand that God has freed us from the curse of the law and is no longer looking at our sin but at our heart, we can begin to see how faithfully He longs to see us set free from sin in our lives which brings separation from him. He’s not condemning us for our sin but he wants us to escape its corruption in us. He wants it removed from our lives. He died to remove sins power over us. **So we can escape it** and its torment. He took the law away to **rob sin of any**

**power over us** so that we are **able to escape its grasp**. **Sin has no power over us now to hold us to it**, we **can** turn from sin in Gods grace and strength. He **wants us to escape sin** and uproot its corruption within us. He **longs for us to obey Him** because he has already made the way for us if we will simply **follow him faithfully from the heart** even amongst all our failures and weaknesses and sin. **Its all done**, He did it all and He urges us to follow Him and become holy as he is holy. Not under law, but by grace through faith. Because as God renews our mind and soul and heart we naturally depart from sin. We do it naturally as our new man, our spiritual man takes over the flesh nature which desires pleasure, comfort and sin. The Spirit working in us causes us to want holiness. So God is faithful to do this work in us as we are faithful to him in obeying what we know to be good and what we know He is guiding us to deal with. If we truly want holiness, God will renew our heart and mind. It is a process that we **need to be faithful to continue with God**. Because He is always faithful to us. He will never forsake us or fail us.

**Psalm 51:10** Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

**Hebrews 10:23** Let us hold fast **the profession** of *our* faith without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;)

**Philippians 1** **2** Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and *from* the Lord Jesus Christ. **3** I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, **4** Always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy, **5** For your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now; **6** Being confident of this very thing, that **he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ:**

**John 19:30** When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.

**1John 3:5** And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and. **in him is no sin.**

So as we come to understand Gods love and grace toward us, we are able to trust him and have faith in His faithfulness and love toward us. God is not a respecter of persons so as we are faithful to the Holy Spirit in obeying him and departing from sin we are enabled by Him to become more as Jesus is. The letter of the law condemns us as we have seen. There is though a Spirit behind the word of God which speaks of Love. Behind the letter of the law there is an encouragement to depart from evil and to do good. When we refuse to be condemned by the law, the word of God will bring new life to us through the Spirit of God. If the law condemns us we have been snared again by the devil. God wants all of us to be faithful to Him and **trust by faith that we are forgiven**. When we know we are forgiven we are free to see the Spirit behind the word of God. The good thing behind the law and its purpose. It takes on life and we will now begin to be able to hear the small still voice behind the word of God. We now allow the word and the Holy Spirit through the word to commune with our hearts. We, through the Holy Spirit begin to discern what God truly desires for us. The Word of God comes alive. The natural man under the law cannot understand the spirit behind the word because it is foolishness to him. The natural mind is trapped trying to obey the law(works of the flesh) because it is more comfortable than faith. The natural mind cannot grasp faith. The carnal cannot understand the spiritual. We **need** the Holy Spirit to discern the truth and the way we should go. The law cannot do this.

**1 Corinthians 1:18** For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

**1 Corinthians 2** **14** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. **15** But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. **16** For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

**Romans 7:14** For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin.

**Hebrews 4:12** For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the **dividing asunder of soul and spirit**, and of the joints and marrow, and *is* a **discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart**.

**1 Corinthians 2:13** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, **but which the Holy Ghost teacheth**; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

As we are faithful to the Lord in our obedience and trust, we learn more and more how much God loves us. The more we realize this the more we realize that God is not looking at our sin and failings and shortcomings but at our heart and at our growth in Him. **He loves to see us grow up in Jesus, in the Spirit**. He is much **more interested in the fact that we are being faithful to learn** of Jesus and **become like Him**. Even in what can seem to be a terrible struggle to escape sin and even though we feel we are failing miserably many times, we find the Holy Spirit still there simply encouraging us to move on. Always encouraging us to continue with him faithfully trusting **he has a good outcome in every trial we face**. To continue the fight against the flesh and the carnal nature. He is never condemning but always gently urging us to make the right decisions and changes in our life. He is so faithful in all of our inability to obey and inability to walk in love as we struggle to do it many times in our own strength(**which will fail every time**). He is not looking at our failures, Jesus is looking at our growth in Him, our growth in faith. We fail many times and the devil will say "now God will never forgive you for this you sinner!" Cast him out, Jesus dealt with sin for us! The devil has been trampled already and he's a liar under our authority. **Command** him to leave and trust in Gods mercies and forgiveness always. It pleases God. If we believe satan is trampled, he is trampled and then his condemnation will be useless and he **must obey our command**. We **will struggle to have faith** in our command if we are not being obedient(in Heart) to God. The Holy Spirit who is so gentle and loving will simply encourage us to get back up and confess our mistakes and trust we are forgiven. Because **we are** forgiven, He is faithful to forgive us of all our inability and failings and He gently prods us to get back up and continue with him. Being spiritual babes we make many mistakes and we have the most loving Father in all of creation gently smiling saying ok get back up my son and move on. I love you. I will never forsake you. You can do it, I have made the way, believe in Me, you can do it.

**Deutoronomy 31:8** And the LORD, **he it is that doth go before thee**; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed.

**Romans 14:22** Hast thou faith? have *it* to thyself before God. Happy *is* he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

**Lamentations 3** **22** *It is* of the LORD'S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. **23** *They are* new every morning: great *is* thy faithfulness. **24** The LORD *is* my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

**1John 1:9** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

As we see the Spirit behind the Word of God (what God really wants to do in us) and are faithful to God to obey what he is showing our spirit, by His Spirit, we, perhaps without even realizing are being transformed into a new creation in Christ Jesus. We are being washed of our sin by the word through the Spirit. The old sin nature(human nature) is passing away and we are being made into sons of God fit for service. We are taking on our spiritual nature in Christ. But we need to be faithful to the Lord to fulfill our part which is to **love God with all our heart** and love our neighbor. When we do this diligently God will reward us, he promises this and doesn't lie. To do this we need His instructions in the bible. We need the Word daily to wash us of the sin nature a piece at a time. We need to learn how to love and to love from within our hearts, through God.

**Proverbs 8:17** I love them that love me; And those that seek me diligently shall find me.

**Ephesians 5** **25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; **26** That he might sanctify and cleanse it **with the washing of water by the word**, **27** That he might present it to himself a glorious church, **not having spot, or wrinkle**, or any such thing; but that it should **be holy and without blemish**.

**Isaiah 28:10** For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little:

**Acts 17:11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

So we find that as we are faithful to the Holy Spirit as he teaches us how to discern the spiritual intent behind the Word, the carnal mind loses its strength to condemn us and bring us under the law of sin and death and the curse. If we are faithful to believe Jesus has freed us from sin we are free indeed. If we rely on the carnal mind to interpret the Word of God then we will just come back under the law and fall from grace. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to interpret the word for us. Being found faithful to obey what we are shown by the Holy Spirit as he helps us to discern what he wants us to change in our life through the correct discernment of the word of God. God

wills for us to be good stewards of what we have been given by him thus we need to be faithful in what he has given us. Faithful to use our gifts and talents and freedom to edify the Whole body. God wants for others, the same things he wants for ourself. To be faithful to Jesus we need to realize that we need to be faithful to each other as much as possible. Loving each other is loving God. **He is in each of us** who have the Spirit. If we hate someone that has the Holy Spirit in them then we effectively are hating God.

**1 John 4:20** If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

**John 8:36** If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

**1Corinthians 4:2** Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

**1Peter 4:10** As every man hath received the gift, *even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards* of the manifold grace of God.

Being faithful to God is being faithful to His body the church because he died for his body the church. Being faithful to Jesus is being faithful to the same Jesus we see and know is in others. Being faithful to share with the body whatever the Spirit gives each of us. We are each part of the one body and if we have and follow the mind of Christ then we will all have the same purpose. It is good and well pleasing to God if we are faithful with what the Lord has given us whether it be the carnal things of this world or the spiritual things/gifts of God. **We die to what we want** and to live to be faithful to God and to his family the church. He died for his church, he died for his bride. Jesus loves his whole body so we learn to love each other. As our minds are transformed we begin to see Jesus working through his body, each part doing its function just as our natural bodies have different organs doing different tasks to keep it healthy. Edifying each other edifies our own body, our eternal body that is, which is in Christ. Being faithful to God. When we see this, the power that the flesh has over us dies, because we see Gods eternal purpose for our lives and we live for that purpose now more and more. We live less and less to our own purpose. We live to God and we each take up our part/function in that body. We need each other. If one suffers we all suffer and when one has a victory we can all share in it and rejoice. **We are in the body of Christ.**

**Galatians 6:2** Bear ye one another's burdens, **and so fulfil the law of Christ.**

**Ephesians 4:16** From whom **the whole body fitly joined together** and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the **effectual working in the measure of every part**, maketh increase of the body unto the **edifying of itself in love.**

**Philipians 1:21** For to me to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain.

**2 Timothy 2:11** *It is a faithful saying: For if we be dead with *him*, we shall also live with *him*:*

**1 Corinthians 12:26** And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.

**Matthew 25:22** He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them. **23** His lord said unto him, Well done, **good and faithful servant**; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

**Genesis 12:3** And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Right back in Genesis God had promised Jesus the messiah(christ) and he said I will bless them that bless thee. If therefore we are in the body of christ, those that bless us will be blessed. And if we bless another member of the body of Christ, being each other, we will be blessed. Being faithful to the body of Christ brings blessings not only upon Jesus body but also upon our own souls. Not always carnal/temporary blessings but more often eternal spiritual blessings, or both. As we use our resources and talents and gifts to serve God faithfully the whole body benefits. If we gossip slander and rail against each other we are doing so against our own body, if we actually believe we are part of Jesus body the church. God has all kinds of vessels and if we honor the body of his Son Jesus, he will honor us, and we will be made into a vessel of honor.

**2 Timothy 2** **20** But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour, and some to dishonour. **21** If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, *and* prepared unto every good work. **22** Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. **23** But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes. **24** And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient, **25** In meekness **instructing those that oppose themselves**; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; **26** And *that* they may **recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.**

Being faithful to Jesus is to love Him, and we are in Him and He is in us. When we are loving each other we are loving Him, because he is in each of us. He died for the whole world and so loving Him, is loving others, even those that don't know Him yet. He died for all who will believe in Him and call on His name, no matter how terrible their sin. He has paid the price for every man to be saved but many do not know Gods grace and love. Nor do they understand it and so they need to witness the body of Christ walking in love toward each other. We become a testimony to Jesus by our manner of living. To love God is to be a faithful member of His body and to bless His body, by obeying the Holy Spirit, who knows the needs of each of us. Romans 12 gives some good instructions on how to walk faithfully.

**Romans 12** **1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. **2** And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

**3** For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. **4** For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: **5** So we, *being* many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. **6** Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, *let us prophesy* according to the proportion of faith; **7** Or ministry, *let us wait* on *our* ministering: or he that teacheth, on teaching; **8** Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, *let him do it* with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness.

**9** *Let* love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. **10** *Be* kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; **11** Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; **12** Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; **13** Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality.

**14** Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. **15** Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. **16** *Be* of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. **17** Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. **18** If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. **19** Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. **20** Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. **21** *Be* not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

As we follow these instructions and are faithful in the Lord, we are blessed exceedingly. With each blessing, we pour upon Jesus body the church, we are being clothed with a far greater and eternal weight of glory. Everything we invest in each other is an investment with eternal value that cannot be stolen by the devil because it is stored in heaven in Christ. There will be trials and tribulation, but we overcome it all through Jesus and through faith by the grace given to us. As we continue to be faithful, we continue to conquer the flesh and be clothed in His righteousness through the blessings and acts of service to each other. Lifting and edifying each other. If one falls we lift them back up, we support and do not condemn. It is ours to love and encourage, not to judge. Tomorrow it may be ourself that needs the encouragement. We shun evil but do good.

**2 Corinthians 4:17** For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

**Psalms 21:6** For thou makest him most blessed for ever: Thou makest him glad with joy in thy presence.



**Revelation 3:18** I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, **and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear;** and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

**Revelation 3:5** **He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment;** and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

**Ecclesiastes 9:8** **Let thy garments be always white;** and let thy head lack no ointment.

**Revelation 19:14** And the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

**Revelation 19:8** And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: **for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (KJV)**

**Revelation 19:8** She has been given the finest of pure white linen to wear." For the fine linen represents **the good deeds of God's holy people. (NLT)**

As we are faithful to God to bless his body, he clothes us in white. As we follow and obey the Holy Spirit and the anointing upon us and use the gifts we have been given, to help and edify each other, we are clothed in white. The way to be clothed is through our righteous acts, done through the Spirit, doing good and being faithful to each other and to God. We cannot do this in our strength but we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us, and in the unity of the faith, in the one mind, which is the Spirit of God. We cannot do it in our strength because the devil will thwart us, we cannot overcome satan apart from Jesus because our righteousness is found in Him. But we can do it through the mind of Christ, The Holy Spirit of God Almighty and through His power. As we are faithful to Him and obey Him he leads us to holiness.

**Philipians 4:13** I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.

**Psalms 31:23** O love the LORD, all ye his saints: *for* the LORD preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer.

**Hebrews 10 23** Let us hold fast the **profession of *our* faith** without wavering; (for he *is* faithful that promised;) **24** And **let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:**